

**DRAFT**  
**REGION 6 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

TOPIC: Laplace-Chloroprene

DATE: September 21, 2020

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PURPOSE/ACTION NEEDED: For Information - 9/29/2020 Region 6 State Air Directors Meeting

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**BACKGROUND:**

The [ HYPERLINK "<https://www.epa.gov/national-air-toxics-assessment/2011-national-air-toxics-assessment>" ], a national screening-level assessment, released in December 2015, estimated higher than expected levels of chloroprene in the community of LaPlace, LA.

Since 2016, EPA has been monitoring ambient air for chloroprene at six locations in the community.

EPA's 2014 NATA, released in August 2018, showed revised estimated lifetime cancer risks in LaPlace LA of 2,000-in-1 million. EPA's general guideline of acceptable risk is approximately 100-in-1 million. The elevated risk in LaPlace appears to be from chloroprene emissions from the Denka Performance Elastomer, LLC facility (Denka) and ethylene oxide emissions from other facilities in the local area.

EPA conducted an ambient air monitoring program in the neighborhoods surrounding the Denka facility over the past four years (2016-2020). In December 2017, Denka completed installation of a regenerative thermal oxidizer, two condensers, and equipment upgrades and controls for vents and fugitive emissions to reduce emissions of chloroprene which reduced chloroprene emissions by 85%. Since March 2018, sampling results have shown a substantial reduction in chloroprene impacts at all monitoring locations.

**CURRENT STATUS:**

On September 26, 2020, EPA ceased the community air monitoring air for chloroprene at six locations every six days in LaPlace LA. The goal of this monitoring effort was to gather longer term data about the ambient chloroprene levels in the LaPlace community and we have met that goal. As part of this effort, we have collected over 2,500 measurements of the chloroprene in the community.

Short term emissions or "spikes" have driven the annual ambient chloroprene air monitoring averages. This annual average would be lower but for occasional elevated concentrations that contribute to the average.

In March 2020, EPA deployed a Continuous Air Monitoring program which involves a network of air monitors that will continuously measure total VOC concentrations in the ambient air and will collect 24-hour samples when triggered by high VOC levels. The samples are then analyzed for chloroprene.

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it is designed to help EPA understand the magnitude and frequency of occasional, but recurring, elevated chloroprene measurements or "spikes" that, as demonstrated by the community ambient monitoring data, contribute significantly to the long-term chloroprene averages. Another objective of the Continuous Air Monitoring Program is to help identify unknown or under-characterized emissions sources or activities at the facility. This continuous monitoring approach may help EPA identify possible actions that Denka could take to further reduce chloroprene in the community.

EPA posted the chloroprene sampling results from the Continuous Air Monitoring Program to the Denka Air Monitoring Data Summary Page: [ HYPERLINK "<https://www.epa.gov/la/denka-air-monitoring-data-summary>" ]

Our long-term comparison of the EPA's community air monitoring data and Denka's air monitoring data indicate that Denka's air monitoring data results have generally followed a track similar to EPA's

monitoring data. Denka has recently committed to continue their air monitoring efforts in the community through 2021.

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### **COMMUNITY CONCERNS:**

Community is concerned that annual average levels of chloroprene still exceed EPA risk levels of concern.

### **OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT- REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERTION:**

On June 26, 2017 Denka submitted a Request for Reconsideration (RfR) contesting the EPA-ORD 2010 Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Toxicological Review of Chloroprene.

On July 17, 2019, ORD acknowledged receipt of supplemental information from Denka concerning the model supporting their request for reconsideration of the 2010 EPA-ORD IRIS value for chloroprene.

In that acknowledgement, ORD stated they were pausing reconsideration of Denka's request until after the peer review results regarding Denka's submitted model were fully assessed. EPA estimated it would take a minimum of nine months to complete the IRIS quality assurance and peer review processes.

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On July 24, 2020 EPA published in the Federal Register a Notice of Public Comment Period on Technical Documents for External Peer Review and the Pool of Candidate Peer Reviewers for a Report on Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) Modeling for Chloroprene and a Supplemental Analysis of Metabolite Clearance. The 30-day public comment period on the technical documents and the list of proposed peer review candidates ended August 24, 2020. A virtual public meeting will be held on October 5 and 6, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. However, the public must register online to receive the webcast meeting link and audio teleconference information for participation.

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